

AN ORDINANCE

BY COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-136 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA (ENTITLED "REMARKS FROM PUBLIC") SO AS TO REPEAL SAID SECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO ESTABLISH NEW RULES GOVERNING REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC WHEN SPEAKING BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL; TO WAIVE CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the city council desires to establish a uniform policy regarding remarks from the public when speaking before the standing committees of the council; and,

WHEREAS, the council further desires that such uniform rules be closely aligned and patterned after the rules for remarks from the public when speaking before the full council as provided in City Code Section 2-104; and,

WHEREAS, the current provisions of Code Section 2-136 give wide discretion to committee chairpersons as to the time allotment and scope of remarks from the public when speaking before committees; and,

WHEREAS, a uniform policy established for all committees will eliminate any confusion by the public as to the rules governing remarks from the public when speaking before council committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

Section 1: Section 2-136 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Georgia which currently provides as follows:

Sec. 2-136. Remarks from public.

Each standing committee shall hear remarks from the public at its regularly scheduled meetings, provided that the chairperson may limit

receipt of such remarks to legislation pending before such committee, may bar comments pertaining to legislation for which public hearings have been held, may rule out of order personal, abusive or indecorous language, and may further limit the time allotted to each person, or to each side of a pending issue, to no less than one minute.

Is hereby repealed in its entirety with the following being substituted in lieu thereof:

Sec. 2-136. Remarks from public.

The rules governing remarks from the public before all standing committees of the city council shall be as follows:

- (a) Before an individual agenda item is voted upon, members of the public who have signed up to speak to or comment on said particular agenda item, shall be allowed to speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.**
- (b) Members of the public who have signed up to speak to or comment on matters of general public concern, shall be allowed to speak at the end of the agenda for a maximum of two (2) minutes, provided that the subject upon which the person wishes to speak is one over which the particular committee exercises jurisdiction.**
- (c) Comments pertaining to legislation for which public hearings have been held shall not be permitted.**
- (d) Personal, abusive or indecorous language shall not be allowed.**
- (e) Any of the rules set forth in this section may be waived by a vote of a majority of the total number of council members appointed to said committee.**

Section 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby waived to the extent of any such conflict.